

WORLD & NATION

Third Duke Lacrosse Player Is Indicted in Rape Case

By Shaila Dewan

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DURHAM, N.C.

A third lacrosse player was indicted Monday in the rape investigation that has raised racial and class tensions between Duke University and its hometown.

David F. Evans, 23, of Bethesda, Md., a team captain who lived in the house where a black woman says she was sexually assaulted by three white players during a party, was charged with rape, first-degree sexual offense and kidnapping. Evans was indicted on the same charges as two of his teammates, Reade Seligmann, 20, of Essex Fells, N.J., and Collin Finnerty, 19, of Garden City, N.Y., who surrendered April 18.

Evans graduated from Duke on Sunday but did not attend the commencement ceremony. Before turning himself in Monday, he emphatically denied his guilt at a news conference, becoming the first indicted player to speak publicly.

Fears Mount That Affirmative Action Will Hurt India's Economy

By Saritha Rai

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BANGALORE, INDIA

What began in New Delhi last month as a doctors' strike to protest an affirmative action proposal for disadvantaged Indians, spread over the weekend and is threatening to flare into a government vs. industry battle.

As a strike by thousands of doctors and medical students intensified on Monday, services in dozens of hospitals across the country were disrupted. In India's technology capital of Bangalore, 500 medical and engineering students marched in the streets over the weekend.

The protests are a reaction to a federal proposal that calls for nearly half of the jobs at government hospitals and half the seats at medical schools to be reserved for lower-caste and other disadvantaged Indians. Beyond that, several ministers have pushed for legislation to reserve spots at other types of schools as well as jobs in private companies for people belonging to disadvantaged groups.

Supporters of the proposal say that India's economy, which is growing by 8 percent annually, has only accentuated the inequalities of Indian society. In a television interview over the weekend, India's industry minister, Kamal Nath, declared that the government was committed to affirmative action and that it wanted to ensure that growth was "inclusive."

China Allows Its Currency to Rise Above 8-to-1 Rate

By Keith Bradsher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG

China allowed its currency to strengthen past the symbolic level of 8 to the dollar Monday, rattling Asian markets already shaken by the dollar's extended slide and Friday's drop in share prices in the United States.

The actual rise in the Chinese currency was tiny: one-tenth of a percent from Friday's level. But the breaching of that threshold unnerved regional investors, who feared that it could open a path for broader declines in the dollar.

The Bush administration has been pressing China for three years to allow its currency to rise sharply, although the Treasury stopped short last Wednesday of labeling China as a country that manipulates the value of the currency, the yuan.

That prompted many predictions that China would reward the conciliatory gesture by allowing the yuan to move a little higher in interbank trading in Shanghai. On Thursday and Friday, though, the yuan weakened slightly before rallying on Monday.

Remember That Yellow Thing In the Sky?

By Michael J. Ring

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

By tomorrow afternoon, we may catch a slight glimpse of something we haven't seen in a full week — the sun. However, a total respite from this past weekend's incredible rainfall will not come until the upcoming weekend.

The last batch of heavy rain should be winding down as you pick up this paper, as the low pressure system and cold front which have been the culprits of our terrible weather finally pull offshore. Unfortunately, the blocking pattern over the North Atlantic, which had kept the storms frozen over New England, is only slowly weakening. Hence, showers will linger across New England for a few days. Another storm is likely to move up the coast and bring steadier rain again on Friday. Our first chance at a truly sunny and dry day won't come until the weekend.

Through Monday morning, 8.3 inches of rain had fallen at Logan Airport since Friday. In over a century of record-keeping, only once has Boston received more rain over a 72-hour period.

Extended Forecast

Today: Cloudy with showers and cool. High near 58°F (14°C).

Tonight: Cloudy with scattered showers. Low near 50°F (10°C).

Wednesday: Finally, a few breaks in the clouds. Warmer with a high near 70°F (21°C).

Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low near 52°F (11°C).

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. High near 68°F (20°C). Low near 55°F (13°C).

Friday: Cloudy with steadier rain likely. High near 65°F (18°C).

EU Announces Plan to Offer Iran New Incentive Package

By Dan Bilefsky

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The European Union said Monday that it would offer a new incentive package to Iran, including technology to build nuclear power plants for civilian energy production.

But Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief, said that Iran would first have to gain international confidence by ceasing any nuclear enrichment, which Iran defends as part of its nuclear program but which the United States and the European Union view as camouflage for a nuclear weapons program.

Speaking after a meeting of European foreign ministers in Brussels, Solana said the European Union was willing to offer Iran "the most sophisticated technology" provided it would be used for generating energy and not building nuclear weapons.

"We want to prove to the Iranians clearly and loudly that we have nothing against Iran using nuclear power for peaceful means," Solana said. "But we do not have proof that this is the case, and Iranian demands to be able to conduct enrichment for research purposes is something we

can't accept."

He did not explain how technology could be offered that would allow Iran to produce nuclear power without also enabling it to create weapons-grade nuclear materials. Nor did he explain how such technology could be provided without approval from the United States, which insists that Iran halt all nuclear activities.

Iran reacted coolly to the proposals, saying that it would reject any European initiative that demanded that Iran halt uranium enrichment. Meeting with the ambassadors of Britain, France and Germany in Tehran, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said in a statement that, "Any demand for a suspension or pause" of uranium enrichment "is an illogical and unacceptable demand and undoubtedly will be rejected."

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday pre-emptively dismissed any new European offer, asserting that only Iran has the authority to make decisions about its nuclear program. "They want to offer us things they call incentives in return for renouncing our rights," he said.

European officials said privately

that they were seeking to structure the offer in such a way that Iran would be forced to reveal the true intentions behind its nuclear program. "We want to tease out an offer that will once and for all force Iran to say whether it wants to use nuclear activities for energy or for nuclear weapons and to stop it from playing games," said one official, speaking on the condition of anonymity for fear of derailing negotiations.

European officials said they had discussed an incentives package for Iran that included proposals to speed talks on its potential admittance to the World Trade Organization and on expanding university ties between Iran and Europe. However, they emphasized that Europe would not offer Iran security guarantees against potential threats by its neighbors.

They said a breakthrough was unlikely unless the European Union can garner international support for its package. The final proposal is expected by the end of the month, but European officials said it was unlikely before a meeting Friday in London of nonproliferation officials from the five permanent members of the Security Council.

U.S. Military Says it Killed 25 Insurgents During Raids in Iraq

By Dexter Filkins

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

The American military said Monday that it killed 25 insurgents in air strikes and ground attacks on Sunday in Yusefiya, a turbulent city south of Baghdad that has attracted growing attention from American commanders.

Two American airmen died when their helicopter was shot down during the battle, the military said.

Two Marines were also killed Sunday by "enemy action" in Anbar province, the violent, largely Sunni province west of Baghdad, the military said.

The description of the fighting in Yusefiya offered by the military, with the high death tolls and the shooting down of a helicopter, suggested that the battle had been fierce.

In a statement, the military said that American soldiers on the ground

in Yusefiya attacked a suspected insurgent safe house and killed two in people inside. The Americans entered the house, detained four suspects and treated three injured civilians, the statement said. As the Americans were evacuating three women by helicopter to a military hospital, the aircraft came under fire from the ground, the statement said.

American aircraft responded to the shooting with several airstrikes, killing approximately 20 insurgents, the statement said.

During the fighting, the Americans said they shot and killed three men who tried to ram American positions with a truck. One of the men, the Americans said, detonated a suicide vest after he was shot but injured no one. The man died.

The airstrikes ignited several "secondary" explosions from a car, suggesting that weapons and ammunition

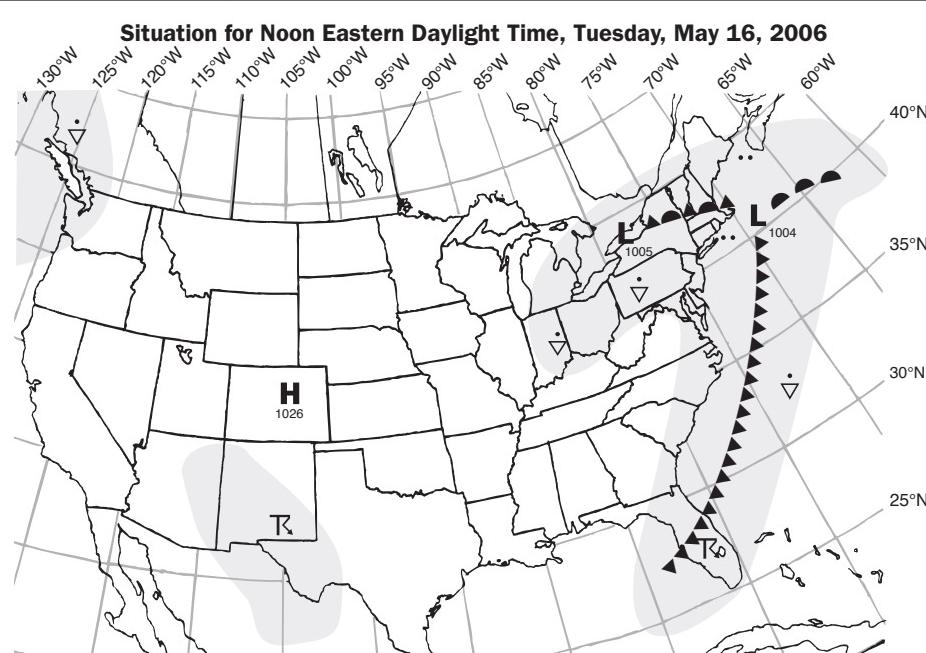
were stored inside, the military said.

The military operation on Sunday was one of several recently around Yusefiya, in a string of towns south of Baghdad where insurgent activity has been especially intense. Local Iraqis have told reporters that Yusefiya and the surrounding area, including Arab Al Jabour, are controlled by al-Qaida.

Saddam Hussein moved large numbers of his Sunni supporters to Yusefiya and nearby towns after the Shiite uprising in 1991. The Sunnis in the area have been among the staunchest opponents of the American presence in Iraq.

Earlier this month, intelligence and military officials in Washington said that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian terrorist suspected of directing dozens of suicide bombings, had been tracked to Yusefiya, and that his men had downed an Apache helicopter near there in April.

WEATHER



Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*

United States Will Re-Establish Full Diplomatic Ties With Libya

By Joel Brinkley

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration announced on Monday that it would re-establish full diplomatic ties with Libya because it had abandoned its nuclear and other unconventional weapons programs and helped in the campaign against terror. The decision ends more than 25 years of hostility while sending a strong signal to Iran and North Korea to follow suit.

Along with normalization of relations and the announced intention to open a new embassy in Tripoli, the administration removed Libya from the list of nations that are state sponsors of terrorism. The United States had reaffirmed Libya's place on that list as recently as March.

The announcements on Monday were the result of Libya's surprise decision in 2003 to renounce terror. At the time, senior American officials said they believed Col. Moammar Gadhafi, the Libyan leader, had taken that step because he was chastened by the American invasion of Iraq a few months earlier. Since then, Libya has also destroyed its chemical weapons stockpiles and dismantled a secret nuclear weapons program.

"Libya is an important model as nations around the world press for changes in behavior by the Iranian and North Korean regimes," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Hers was just one of several similar statements on Monday from senior officials who worked hard to turn Libya's change in behavior into

a lesson for Iran as a resolution on Iran's nuclear development program remains stalled in the U.N. Security Council.

Thus far, however, Iran has openly ridiculed Libya for its rapprochement with the West. But on Monday, Libya accepted the news enthusiastically and even promised to cooperate with the United States in at least one area in which it is ill-equipped to offer help.

"We encourage America on the path of cooperation and we hope we will cooperate together through cultural debate to spread democracy around the world together," said Mustapha Zaidi, who leads Libya's Revolutionary Committees — an apparatus of Gaddafi's iron-handed control of the country.

Truce Monitors Investigate Recent Killings of 13 Tamils in Sri Lanka

By Somini Sengupta

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW DELHI

In the worsening conflict in Sri Lanka, truce monitors said Monday they were investigating the killings of 13 Tamils in the northern Jaffna Peninsula over the weekend. Tamil rebels accused the Sri Lankan navy of "slaughter." The government blamed the rebels.

"We can't say who's clearly responsible for the killings, as there are still many questions on who may have been behind it," said Helen Olafsdottir, spokeswoman for the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission. Two children, including an infant, were among those shot dead on Saturday

in Kyts, an islet controlled by the Sri Lankan navy.

The latest accusations follow the presentation to the government by the monitors, led by the Nordic countries, of a dossier of seven earlier cases in which security forces may have been involved in what the mission called extrajudicial killings.

The government has not responded publicly. But in a statement last week, its chief negotiator in stalled cease-fire talks, Nimal Siripala de Silva, said it "condemns all forms of reprisal attacks against innocent civilians."

The monitoring mission's dossier revives the chilling specter of Sri Lanka's past. By the late 1980s,

during the peak years of its 20-year conflict over the grievances of the Tamil ethnic minority against a government long dominated by the majority Sinhalese, Sri Lanka had become infamous for government-backed death squads, disappearances and unsolved killings.

Reports of disappearances and unsolved killings greatly diminished after a cease-fire was signed by the government and the main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, in February 2002. But in recent months, with near daily clashes between the military and the rebels and a swift escalation of distrust between the warring parties, little seems to be left of the cease-fire.

Boeing Settlement is Near

By Leslie Wayne

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Boeing Co., the nation's second largest military contractor, has agreed to pay \$615 million under a tentative deal with federal prosecutors that will allow the company to avoid criminal charges, Boeing and senior Justice Department officials said Monday.

The agreement, which is expected to become final in a few weeks, would end a three-year investigation into wrongdoing by Boeing employees and would require the company to pay \$565 million to cover civil claims and \$50 million to end a criminal inquiry. Senior Justice Department officials said they believed this is the largest fine ever imposed on a military contractor.

While avoiding criminal charges, Boeing will agree to "accept responsibility," the justice officials said, for the actions of its employees. One case involved the theft of proprietary data from rival Lockheed Martin Corp. The other involved Boeing's hiring of a former Air Force official who oversaw Boeing contracts at the Pentagon.

Boeing will also be monitored by the Justice Department for a two-year period and be required to maintain a federal ethics and compliance program as well as cooperate with federal investigators in any future investigations. Should Boeing violate these provisions, it could be prosecuted and fined up to \$10 million, according to the settlement.

"Boeing does accept responsibility for the actions of its employees," said the senior Justice Department official, who added that the \$615 million figure reflected "money that was lost to the government due to Boeing's illicit activities."

Heavy Rains Wreak Havoc In New England

By Katie Zezima

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BOSTON

After days of record rainfall, rivers in Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire have spilled over their banks, causing thousands of residents to flee their homes and brace for what could be the region's worst flooding in 70 years.

Storms have dumped more than a foot of rain throughout the region since Friday, with at least another inch expected by Tuesday morning. No deaths were reported, but the Coast Guard was searching for two people who were seen floating down the Merrimack River in Amesbury, Mass., on Monday afternoon after a floating bridge broke free of its moorings.

On Monday, as the rains continued, residents were evacuated and floated through towns in canoes; cars were submerged up to their roofs; major roadways, including Route 1 in Massachusetts, were closed; sewage systems were failing; and residents tried to come to grips with flood damage that, despite four days of rain, seemed to come out of nowhere.

"I don't think anybody anywhere expected what hit us," said Yetta Chin of Kennebunk, Maine, whose three-bedroom ranch was destroyed by the flooding Mousam River on Sunday night.



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Corrections

A May 12 page 16 table of new Undergraduate Association Officers misspelled a name. The Chairman for the Committee on Athletics is Richard L. Lin '09, not Richard Li.

The May 12 page 15 diagram of the General Institute Requirements included incorrect course numbers for the Principles of Chemical Science; they are 5.11x, not 5.01x. Additionally, though not explicitly indicated in the diagram, the Chemistry department will offer 5.11x under any new GIR plan.

Letters To The Editor

Resolving Dissonance

Granted, a piano frozen in midair does look quite interesting. In fact, it pleased a crowd of about 300 people, News Channel 7, and the remainder of the MIT community as high-speed photography on an inner page of *The Tech*. The long-lost tradition of the Baker piano drop has returned, and is better than ever.

While I thank Ms. Wu ("A Dissonant Tradition," May 9) for her opinion, I feel that her point of view is not very objective. The piano was donated by a well-wisher, and I assure you that the condition of the piano was far worse than most any practice piece. Three of my friends and I rented a U-Haul and sacrificed our own time to move it back to Baker.

I also played piano before I came to MIT. Like Wu, the only piano I had to practice on was a hand-me-down from my grandparents. I also played five years on the disparaged instrument, until I was fortunate enough to upgrade to a nicer piano. In my time playing

I had the opportunity to study at the Manhattan School of Music Prep program, and I even got to play once in Carnegie Recital Hall.

I know that destroying a piano seems sacrilegious; however, it did bring "joy into my heart" to see the fruits of my labor, and that of so many others, pay off by hearing the crunching thud of a direct hit. I am also very confident that the Baker Piano Drop costs significantly less than most other dorm-sponsored activities because the instrument is donated.

I am truly sorry to hear that members of the MIT community feel that we acted childishly and disgracefully. However, isn't stealing a cannon from three thousand miles away also considered childish? What if someone practiced cannon shooting for five years of their youth? Is it not in the spirit of MIT to have fun and exciting events? I assure all of you that the piano that we kindly guided over the edge of Baker House had long since seen its last working day. And to that end, we at Baker look forward to pleasing the crowds again on Drop Date 2007.

George Courtsunis '09

Review Needed Back-Up

Minyoung Jang's review ["Spring Weekend Caters to 'Alternative' Tastes," May 12] of the spring weekend Cake concert was a disappointment. Comments like "Cake's performance fell flat at times, but only because I find a lot of their songs to be weak in the first place" convey a bit about Jang's taste — a topic neither I nor other readers are likely to care about — but little about the actual concert. Perhaps it would have been better to mention how the band managed to successfully reproduce the subtleties of their studio sound in a live performance? Jang did, however, provide some comedic relief with statements like "some people blatantly leaned into my space" and "a couple students cut through the crowd to move up front." Really? At a rock concert? How *dare* they? Maybe at Jewel concerts everyone is expected to sit quietly and sip tea daintily, but at a rock concert, shouldn't a little liveliness be expected?

Matthew N. Faulkner '08

Indicting America

Mary-Irene Lang

You should have been there.

I think that if the presentation had come from almost any other source, it would have affected me differently. But the speakers in 10-250 two weeks ago Thursday, particularly retired Brigadier General Janis Karpinski and former British ambassador to Uzbekistan Craig Murray, were disturbingly credible. Given by someone else, the lecture on "The Bush Administration's War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity" could have easily been overzealous propaganda on 77 Massachusetts Avenue. As it was, however, I was not given the luxury of so easily dismissing their message. In fact, I was left with little choice but to take the statements very, very seriously. This was certainly not easy — their stories painted a picture of the United States government that was ugly, vicious, and deeply sad. But after sitting through more than three hours of testimony, it was difficult to do otherwise.

I have undoubtedly expressed more than my fair share of sarcastic cynicism about the Bush administration. Before last Thursday, however,

I would not have said in all seriousness that it was systematically and consciously criminal. That is no longer true. The stories that I heard absolutely floored me, and several times I felt that I must be overreacting. Their testimony is officially disputed, and certainly could not be presented as a collection of unconditionally true facts. After speaking out, Murray was removed from his post in 2004, and then resigned in 2005; Karpinski, formerly a commander in charge of eight battalions and several prisons including Abu Ghraib, claims she was a scapegoat when she was demoted to Colonel and then retired. I am unable, however, to imagine asking for much more convincing evidence. If this was not credible, exactly what would constitute a persuasive indictment?

Given that I cannot relate stories nearly so powerful as those told by Murray or Karpinski, I think it is worth taking up some time to summarize Murray's testimony at the Bush war crimes convention in New York, available at www.bushcommission.org. (Karpinski also presented very powerful testimony, but in the interest of length I will restrict this article to Murray's talk.) Murray spent a great deal of the presentation discussing conditions in Uzbekistan, which were entirely new to me. According to him, Uzbekistan is a totalitarian regime; it does not tolerate any opposition. Sixty percent of the citizens work on state-owned cotton farms: 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, for a total of 7 cents a day. "[They] are in effect slaves in the cotton industry ... If you're born on a cotton farm you will die there." One out of eight are officially members of the police force and secret police, and "the high proportion of the rest are terrorized or coerced into working as informers." Most disturbingly, torture in Uzbekistan is common and widespread —

thousands are tortured each year, and Murray claims most "were being tortured because they were religious Muslims ... By [tortured] I mean raped, raped with objects like open bottles. I mean beatings, I mean smashing of limbs, I mean pulling of fingernails with pliers, I mean immersion of the body into boiling liquid."

Murray's involvement in the U.S. and British relationship with the torture began when listening to a trial at which one of the speakers (who claimed his nephews had met with Osama bin Laden) broke down partway through, saying his children had been tortured until he signed the statement. Upon finding the same statement used in CIA intelligence, Murray sent his deputy to the U.S. embassy to find out what they knew and whether they were concerned. According to Murray, his deputy returned, saying: "The U.S. Embassy says: Yes, they think it probably does come from torture but they don't see that as a problem."

Murray believes that much of the torture in Uzbekistan is funded by the U.S., which "in 2002 alone gave half a billion dollars, [more] than [it] gave that year to West Africa. Of that so-called aid \$120 million went to the Uzbek military and \$82 million went to the Uzbek security services that were working along embedded CIA colleagues."

Because of an intelligence sharing agreement between MI6 and the CIA, Murray was privy to numerous CIA documents. From what appeared on his desk, he concluded: "people were tortured to say that they, and any other Uzbek who had shown any sign of dissent or disagreement with their regime, were members of Al Qaeda and allied to Osama bin Laden. That came up again and again and again in this intelligence. And we could tell ... this was simply nonsense. It was accepted by the CIA, but it was untrue."

Whether or not you agree with him, it was very powerful. And so I repeat: you should have been there.

Mary-Irene Lang is a member of the class of 2008 and photographer for *The Tech*.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Imminent Collapse

The E3 Experience

By Bill Andrews

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

When, a few months ago, I was putting a lab report, I came across a thread online discussing people's hopes for E3. Reading through it, a loony thought occurred to me: maybe I could go to E3. The thought was so ludicrous I (probably) laughed out loud; me, at E3, sure, pull the other one. As if I were some industry insider, or knew anybody who could get me in, or were press ... hey, wait a minute!

So, my breath catching in my throat, I quietly checked out E3's Web site, and realized that, as an editor of a print newspaper, attending E3 was within my power. All I had to do was write something about video games (thank you, Super Princess Peach) and apply. After discussing it with my superiors here@the-tech.mit.edu, I even got myself free transportation to and from LA. Finally, after months of meticulous planning and tenacity spanning, I found myself actually at E3. I was reminded of that sweet Christmas carol, "Oh, Holy Crap!"

Now, some of you out there might be saying to yourselves, "Bill, you've mentioned E3 five times already [now six], don't you think it's time you explained just what it is?" E3 stands for Electronic Entertainment Expo, and it's the biggest annual event in the (video) gaming world. Nothing even comes close. All the latest technology, the coolest games, and the craziest peripherals are unveiled at E3, and those in attendance get to try them out. For free.

I arrived at the LA convention center at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning; I could do this because my body was still on Boston time. After checking in at the press booth (and, might I add, there are few things in the world cooler than walking around with "press" written somewhere on you and getting special privileges

E3 stands for Electronic Entertainment Expo, and it's the biggest annual event in the (video) gaming world.

for it), I went into the first of the two ginormous halls that house the E3 booths. Imagine walking into Disney World for the first time; now imagine the coolest birthday party you've ever had; and now imagine winning the lottery, while God's telling you how much He admires your work. If you mix all that together, you'll understand what it's like for a gamer like myself to enter E3.

The lights, sounds, displays, even the people walking around with "Nintendo" or "Square Enix" shirts all filled me with a sense of joy that previously only my fiancée had provided. There was so much to do, so many "booths" (each company's display area, not necessarily an actual booth) to visit, so much nerdy goodness to take in. I was like a kid in a candy store where all the jars were open, and I could try whatever I wanted (as long as I didn't mind waiting in line for a bit).

In some ways, E3 is kind of like a career fair @mit.edu. The amount of free stuff (or "swag") I got from eager publishers and developers was staggering; T-shirts, game carrying cases, inflatable swords, and even photo-ops with hot models (actual girls, not wire-frame) were par for the course. These hot models are

part of a long-standing tradition at E3 of having enticing "booth babes" to attract attention. In a bizarre twist, there was a small group of (hot) protesters outside the convention center protesting these booth babes and games

in general (I think), wearing skimpy clothing and showing signs like "Bikinis>bullets" and "What's wrong with these guns?" with an arrow pointing at her chest. I didn't really understand what they were protesting, exactly, so I went up and talked to them about it (thank you, press badge!). Alas, they didn't really know either, they just wanted attention, to which I say, "Job well done, ladies!"

In some other ways, though, E3 is kind of like the Academy Awards of gaming; not, of course, in an 'award ceremony' kind of way, but in a 'everyone who's anyone will be there' kind of way. All my favorite console makers were there (Sony and Nintendo), all my favorite game makers were there (Nintendo, Square Enix, Capcom, Konami, Sega, etc), and some others too (Microsoft). Each had their own

stuff to try out, from the still-futuristic next generation consoles (the Sony PS3 and the Nintendo Wii) to long awaited titles like Final Fantasy XII (even though it's been out in Japan for like 12 years already).

Speaking of Nintendo's Wii, you're not alone if you think the name is stupid. For years we'd been thinking of the new system as the Revolution (Nintendo's code name for it), and now all of a sudden it's the Wii? W(ii)tf? The idea, apparently, was to foster a sense of togetherness (it's pronounced "we") and of people playing together (if you squint your eyes, the two "i"s kind of look like people). I just chalk the name up to my dad's famous Step in Excrement theory: every now and then, someone or some company who should really know better inexplicably does something really stupid. (For further reading, see "New Coke," "Enron," and "the new MIT logo.") Still, the Wii was fun to play; if the price is right, I'll be rushing home soon to play with my very own Wii.

Of course, there was much more to do than play with Nintendo's Wii. The idea that just by waiting in line a few minutes (or in some cases, hours) I would get to play any of the hundreds (probably thousands) of playable titles at E3 for free drove me to put in voluntary nine hour days, my first ever. And even after 3 days of E3 bliss, there was still tons of stuff I missed; it really is that huge an event.

The lights, sounds, displays, even the people walking around with "Nintendo" or "Square Enix" shirts all filled me with a sense of joy ...

It wasn't all games, neither. There were celebrities too. Not, y'know, top of the line celebrities like Tom Hanks or Cameron Diaz, but decently famous people. For instance, I now have an autographed picture of Adam West (he of Batman and Family Guy mayor fame) to cherish; he was there to promote an upcoming Family Guy game from 2K which actually looks to be funny. He was very nice, too; when

I told him I was engaged he congratulated me, and wished us the best. It was amazing. Paris Hilton was also there, I'm not really sure why (perhaps there's a "One Night in Paris" game coming out soon, though like most movie-based games it'll probably suck (haha)). I didn't actually get to talk to her, but I did catch her eye and wave at one point, and maybe it was just my imagination, but when she saw me I could've sworn a small glint entered her eye, and her smile got just a little bit wider. Whatever, I kept walking.

Like all good things, though, E3 had to end. It was with (metaphorical) tears in my eyes and cash in my hand that I visited the E3 store for the last time, and got my official® souvenirs. On the \$40 cab ride back to my hotel (lousy LA traffic), I reflected on all that I'd done. It was an amazing experience, getting to hang out with the industry's elite, trying out the latest stuff, chatting it up with Adam West and the voice of Mario and Luigi (he was there too). The only sad thing is, because of my inexperience (all the people I talked to had been to E3 before), I couldn't do as much as I wanted; the few pictures I took, for instance, were all messed up and shameful. If I ever return to E3, I bet it'd still feel as awing and inspiring and overwhelming as it did this time.

I mean, come on: this is E3 we're talking about.

By Bruce Wu
STAFF COLUMNIST

Nutty B is currently a graduate student at MIT who tries to give his two cents' worth on anything and everything. You know the drill! Please e-mail him with any questions, and give him an excuse to procrastinate at 3 a.m. Send all questions to askNuttyB@yahoo.com.

Dear Nutty B,

I have four roommates, and over the past few years they have either left MIT in the middle of their originally planned PhD track and graduated with a Masters, or they just quit. For a hard-core PhD candidate that has been here for eons but still has a long way to go, that was not exactly encouraging. I am now the only one left in the house that's still stuck here with a pathetic student salary. What should I do?

—Getting Blue

Dear Getting Blue,

Wow! Four out of five gone! Are you sure you have nothing to do with the exodus? You know, in the past I have successfully scared away some roommates I didn't like MIT style: not showering for days, stacking the dishes in the drying rack in some sort of crystal lattice, and trying to direct the subject of every conversation to quantum physics. Think again, do you really have nothing to do with it?

Everyone has his or her path in life. You can't possibly think everyone you have encountered here will be with you for the rest of your life. Since you've decided to stay and be a hard-core PhD candidate (for some reason), then stick with it. If your roommates can live the way they want to live their lives, so can you, and that means staying and finishing your degree. As for a pathetic student salary, again, you've always had a choice to leave, but since you've chosen to be a student and finish the degree, stop whining and suck it up! I am sure it will lead you somewhere meant for you. Bon chance!

Hi Nutty B,

I don't go to MIT, but I happened to pick up an issue of this paper and saw

your column. I have been hooked ever since, and I actually have to ask my friends that go to MIT to pick up the paper for me every week. How do you feel about being known as Nutty B? I mean, you must be very famous on campus, and almost everybody knows you! Quite curious how you feel!

—Curious Tracy

Dear Curious Tracy,

How do I feel about being known as Nutty

B? How would you feel if you had kids giggling together and smiling at you every time you walk in the Infinite Corridor? How would you feel if girls and boys screamed for your autograph and cried when you walked in front of Mass Ave towards your office? Oh wait! I think that's dream from only a few nights ago, in which I was the next Canadian Idol!

Seriously though, it's been another great semester writing for *The Tech*. I would like to think

that even if I have not redeemed myself from accidentally taking a doughnut from the homeless two years back (<http://www-tech.mit.edu/V126/N9/ANB0906.html>), I have at least brightened a reader's day. For those of you walking in June: congratulations, you've earned it. For those of you who still remain, (that includes you, Getting Blue), you aren't alone! Have a great summer, and remember, if you need someone to talk to, I am only an e-mail away. Hasta la vista, baby!

R

RESONANCE

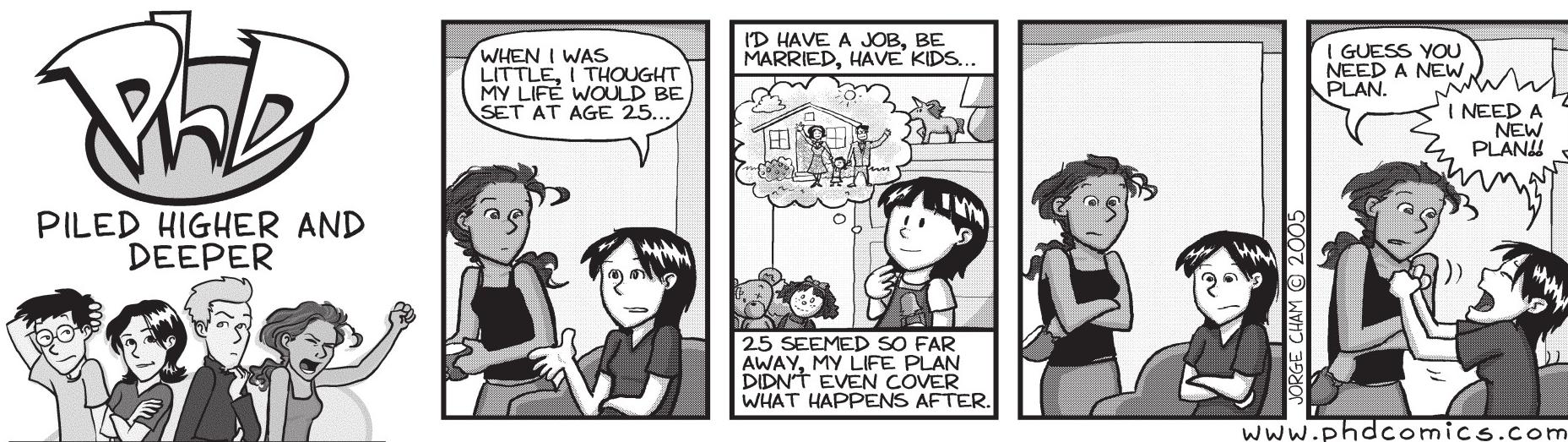
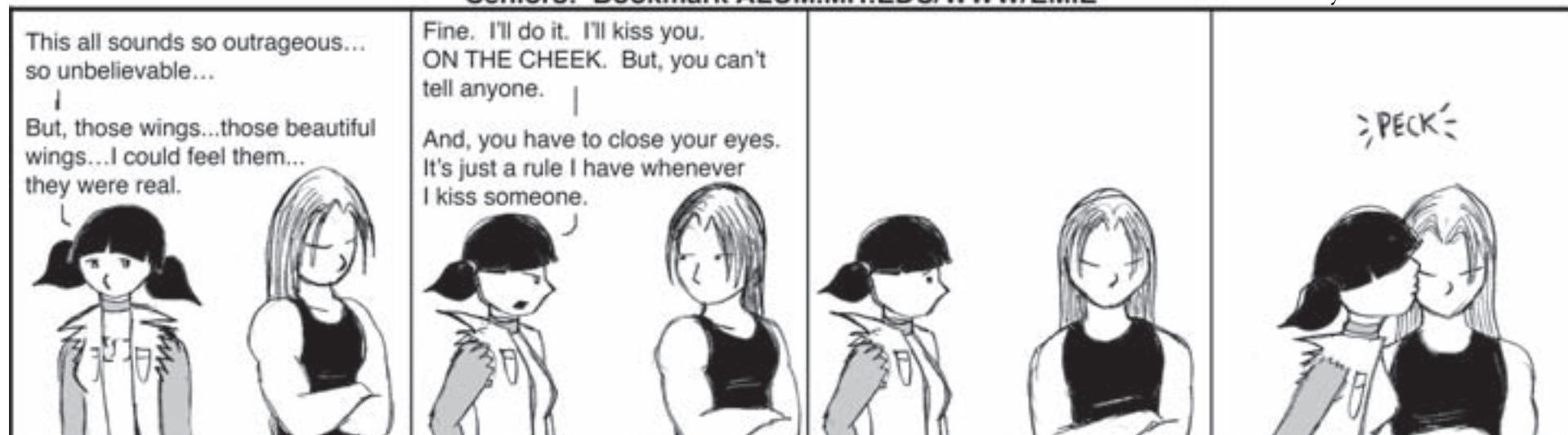
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by Emezie Okorafor



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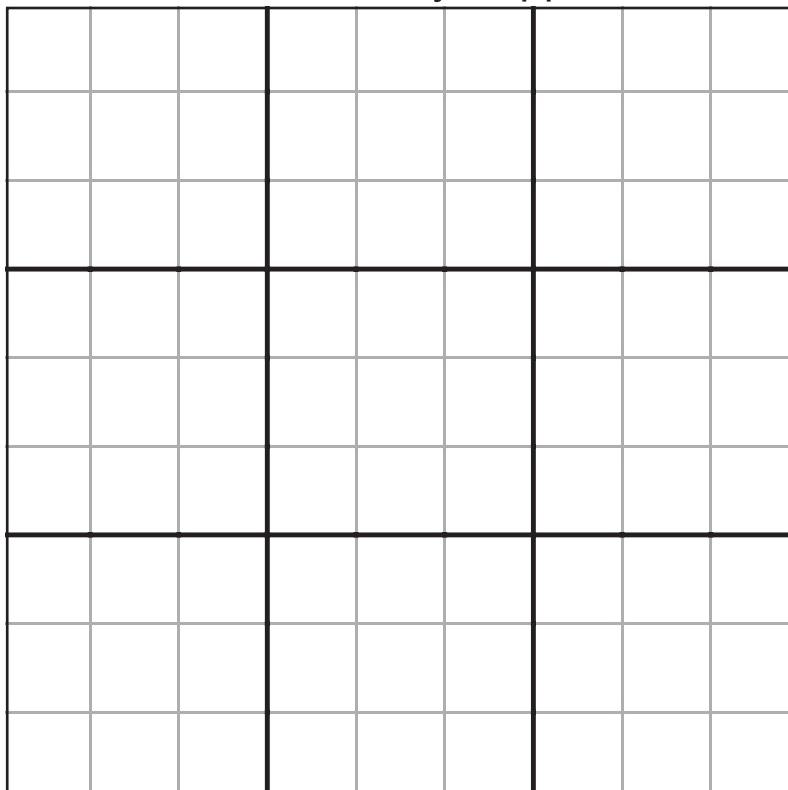
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Gate 23



FoxTrot by Bill Amend**Dilbert®** by Scott Adams**su | do | ku**

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution on page 8.

Direct Summer UROP Funding Distributed

By Marie Y. Thibault

NEWS EDITOR

In the month since the April 13 deadline to apply for direct summer funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, 327 of the 553 students who requested direct funding have received notification that they will be receiving funds from the UROP office, according to Melissa J. Martin-Greene, staff associate in the Academic Resources Center. In addition, 121 of the 226 students who did not receive direct funding have

gotten it from other sources, such as a UROP supervisor or a department.

Both of those numbers could increase, but the number of students who receive funding from other sources is expected to increase more than those funded directly, Martin-Greene said. The majority of students will receive funding from some source, she said.

Last year, only two percent of the 377 students who applied for direct funding did not receive

funding from any source, said Michael Bergren, academic dean for academic and research initiatives. The UROP office has an annual budget of \$1.4 million, which comes from donations, institute funds, and endowed funds. Any undergraduate student who has an approved UROP supervisor is eligible for direct funding, Bergren said.

According to the UROP Web site, there are four ways to participate in a UROP. A student may apply for direct funding or supervisor

funding, work for elective credit, or volunteer. The majority of funded UROP students are funded by their supervisor, according to the Web site.

A number of factors influence whether a student will receive direct funding. Martin-Greene said that the UROP staff considers the quality of the proposal and whether the project seems appropriate for a UROP. The size of the research group that the student will be working with is also a factor, Martin-Greene said, since if there are too many students already working with a faculty member, that faculty member may not be able to fund another one. In that case, the student may be more likely to receive direct funding from the UROP office.

Martin-Greene did say that the funding decision is not affected by who the faculty supervisor is, or whether he/she is MIT faculty or MIT-affiliated faculty. So, students working with MIT-affiliated faculty in the Health Sciences & Technology (HST) department who are not MIT faculty members are given the same consideration as students working with MIT biology or chemistry faculty, she said.

Nikolai D. Begg '09, who received direct funding for his summer UROP, said that he will be observing surgeries that use new technologies at The Children's Hospital of Boston, categorizing any complications that arise.

Begg also said that it seemed to him that many freshmen with what he thought were good proposals didn't get funding.

Martin-Greene said that though "we [UROP staff] haven't crunched the numbers on classes ... we support freshman UROPs."

The final statistics on the number of funded students will be available by the beginning of June, Bergren said.



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

A group of firemen gear up in front of the MIT Museum (building N52), after arriving in front of Cambridge Bicycles on Massachusetts Avenue. A fire alarm at around 2:30 p.m. Monday led to the evacuation of the building.

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Insurance Changes Concern Students

Insurance, from Page 1

a decision from the state," said Wattendorf. However, since the changes are not yet finalized, MIT Health Plans has not yet informed all of the international students of the possible change. Those it has communicated with have been advised to check whether their current insurance carriers are US-based.

Another concern for international students is their option for health coverage if they choose to study abroad, says Rabeel H. Warraich '08, who will be studying at Oxford next year. He would prefer to purchase a health plan that's based in England, but the proposed changes may require him to purchase MIT's Extended Student plan that only provides emergency coverage abroad. "The insurance would be worthless," he said. "The state is not trying to facilitate the students."

"I sort of feel trapped because there's no way around it. Now that the state has made [US-based health insurance] mandatory, I have no choice," says Warraich. "It's a basic thing; if a person is not living here, why should he or she have to pay for health insurance that's based here?"

The final decision for the plan will be made by the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Health Care Finance and Policy on an unreleased date. If the changes are approved, they could go into effect as early as August 1, 2006.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH
A 40 foot "interactive/kinetic tower," sponsored by the Architecture department, was installed outside of the Student Center last Thursday afternoon. The project was submitted for the mini-Skyscraper competition, according to the project's Web site, available at <http://musclesfrombrussels.blogspot.com>

Solution to Crossword

from page 7

A	F	A	N	I	T	A	A	W	A	R	E
L	A	D	E	U	S	E	T	O	G	U	P
A	R	E	A	C	L	E	O	A	R	E	N
M	A	L	L	F	L	A	N	D	S		
O	D	A	M	A	E	V	I	T	A	L	S

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

3	7	2	5	1	8	6	9	4
1	6	5	7	9	4	3	2	8
8	9	4	6	3	2	1	5	7
4	2	6	1	7	5	8	3	9
9	3	7	2	8	6	4	1	5
5	8	1	3	4	9	7	6	2
6	4	9	8	5	3	2	7	1
2	1	8	9	6	7	5	4	3
7	5	3	4	2	1	9	8	6

E3 Features Movie-Themed Video Games

By Bill Andrews
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

LOS ANGELES, CA.

E3, the world's biggest and best gaming convention, began on Wednesday in the Los Angeles Convention Center and just finished up Sunday. The annual event, short for Electronic Entertainment Exposition, is a chance for companies to showcase their latest games, their newest consoles, and what the future holds for them. Even though it's a private event, and only members of the video game industry and the media can come, the place was packed: attendance numbered in the thousands.

A big theme this year is the movie tie-in. As of this writing, I have played demos of Pirates of the Caribbean 2, Superman Returns, X-Men 3, The Da Vinci Code, and even Over the Hedge — all movies that are coming out this summer. But it doesn't end there for the gaming industry's idea-miners; other demos I've played include Scarface, the Godfather, some Sean Connery 007 game, and even an Indiana Jones game (one not specifically representative of a movie). While traditionally licensed games (i.e., games featuring licensed characters from movies or TV shows) have sucked, recent games like the Lord of the Rings: Battle for Middle Earth and Lego Star Wars (with the upcoming sequel covering the original trilogy)

provide hope for reversing the trend.

Of course, the biggest talk at E3 was about the two next generation consoles to be released later this year: the Sony Playstation 3 and the Nintendo Wii (formerly code-named "Revolution"). Starting with the goofily-named latter, Nintendo's 'booth' (in reality more of a tent) had an hour-long line to get in, but the time flew because of gaming celebrities on full-sized TV-phones chatting with the line; I shared some laughs with Charles Martinet, the voice of Mario, Luigi, Wario, and many other famous characters. Once inside there were 27 playable games for the upcoming system: the biggest draws included Metroid 3: Corruption, The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess, and Super Mario Galaxy. After waiting an additional hour or two just to play some of these, I finally got to try out Nintendo's crazy new innovation to gaming: the remote-control style controller. Instead of merely pushing buttons or joysticks, thanks to the infrared panel and a built in motion sensor gamers now use the controller itself to aim, move, and focus the action. Many games, such as the three mentioned above, also featured a "nunchuk" style addition to the new controller, designed to be held in the left hand and with a few more buttons and a joystick on it. Even though at first the controls seemed impossibly sensitive (trying to shoot an arrow in Zelda, for instance, proved an exercise in Zen as I strained to hold my hand perfectly still), it was surprising how quickly

the new controls felt natural, even intuitive. The comparison I thought of was those crazy looking keyboards where the letters are in two blocks: even though it looks weird, when you try it out your fingers are still in the right places and you can just take off.

The PS3, on the other hand, didn't have as spectacular a presence as the Wii. It just didn't have the same impact, or the same emphasis; instead of something new and spectacular, like the Wii, it just felt like more of the same. Which isn't really a bad thing, of course (Sony does make the best selling console worldwide, after all). At the PS3 pavilion, Sonic the Hedgehog for PS3 was prominently displayed (Sonic was so fast it was literally dizzying), as well as a slew of new fighting and action games. The graphics were, of course, phenomenal, but just like Microsoft's XBox 360 and even the Wii, it's really not that big a deal. The difference between the dying generation (Xbox, PS2, Gamecube) and the next is noticeable and appreciable and all, but it's nowhere near the difference between, say, the SNES and the N64. Many industry leaders are saying that simply improving graphics and processing speed will not be enough for the future generations of video game consoles, that other types of innovation (such as the Wii's controller) will be necessary to keep gaming exciting and cutting edge.

Sony also featured its current systems, the PS2 and the portable PSP. The former is still going strong,

featuring upcoming titles like Final Fantasy VII: Dirge of Cerberus (a nifty looking FPS featuring Vincent from FFVII) and FFXII (which uses a new truly real-time battle system, and is no longer even remotely turn based). The PSP's display featured simulated bus seats, airline seats, park benches, and other everyday locations, highlighting the PSP's versatility and portability. Nintendo's only other system at E3 was the DS lite, a new updated version of the DS. Both lighter, smaller, and cheaper than the DS, it also looked cheaper, and felt like I could snap it in two (always a danger with frustrating games). The variety of games available to play on it (from the well-known Pokemon to the more intellectual Brain Age) was vast, and ensured that the DS is still in it for the long haul.

The XBox 360 had a ballroom — I mean, "booth," — but as its Next Generation system was already out, it wasn't in the same league as the Wii and the PS3. Still, the games available for the 360 (such as most of the licensed game mentioned above, Spy Hunter: Nowhere to Run, and the soft core Dead or Alive Xtreme 2) both tantalized and titillated, and even this Microsoft-basher spent a few hours playing the 360.

E3 isn't just about the consoles, however; all the software companies you've ever heard of and forty more were also in attendance, showing off their latest. Square Enix showed a short film (approximately 40 minutes) featuring seven new games, all of them Final Fantasy titles (FFXII, four FFVII spinoffs, and three future FFXIII games). EA games had its millions of games on display, and Konami had fighting games galore. Capcom, K2, Nokia and their goofy N-Gage, and tons more were there, but there just isn't enough time in the day to do more than mention them.

All in all, the future of gaming looks bright and shiny; whether you want to blow things up, explore distant lands, or stare at scantily-clad computer images, the showing at E3 indicates you're in for a good year.

Security Breach Reprises 2004 Leak

Security Breach, from Page 1

the individuals who were affected by the leak set a precedent of "disclosure as quickly as we possibly can," McGovern said.

This type of security breach is "very rare," McGovern said, and "the weakest link in many of these cases still remains ... the possibility of human error."

McGovern also said "we're in

"The weakest link in many of these cases still remains ... the possibility of human error."

—Timothy J. McGovern

pretty good shape," and that he is optimistic about the eventual resolution of the incident. He praised MIT's prompt discovery of the breach and response, and the cooperation of the people who inadvertently received the personal data. It is a testimony that the members of the MIT community "do understand the sensitivity of the information and do safeguard it," he said.

The MIT press release also said that electronic copies of applications to the Summer Research Program had been unintentionally placed online and had been publicly accessible until May 2. The applications also contained personal data and were removed once MIT discovered the error.

Individuals with questions about protecting their personal data can contact IS&T at infoprotect@mit.edu or visit <http://web.mit.edu/infoprotect/> for more information.

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The following incidents were reported to the Cambridge or MIT Police between May 5 and May 12, 2006. This summary does not include incidents such as suspicious activity, false alarms, or medical shuttles.



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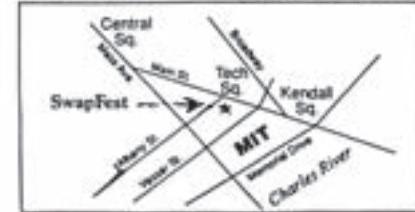
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UA Finboard Allocations for Summer/Fall 2006

Name of Group	Amount Received	Original Request	Legitimate Request	% Received of Original	% Received of Legitimate
<i>Academic</i>					
Alpha Chi Sigma	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	100.00%
American Medical Student Association	\$0.00	\$1,475.00	\$0.00	0.00%	100.00%
BE-BMES	\$2,150.00	\$5,660.00	\$4,660.00	37.99%	46.14%
Brain and Cognitive Sciences Society	\$300.00	\$1,385.00	\$985.00	21.66%	30.46%
Caribbean Club	\$625.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	28.41%	28.41%
Chess Club	\$675.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	52.94%	52.94%
Hippocratic	\$900.00	\$4,175.00	\$3,675.00	21.56%	24.49%
Laboratory For Chocolate Science	\$510.00	\$815.00	\$815.00	62.58%	62.58%
MAES	\$1,050.00	\$2,900.00	\$1,650.00	36.21%	63.64%
Minority Association of Prehealth Students (MAPS)	\$850.00	\$2,895.00	\$2,895.00	29.36%	29.36%
MIT Debate Team	\$1,550.00	\$2,650.00	\$2,650.00	58.49%	58.49%
MIT Mars Society	\$850.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,200.00	65.38%	70.83%
MIT Model United Nations	\$200.00	\$700.00	\$200.00	28.57%	100.00%
MIT Quiz Bowl	\$500.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	41.67%	41.67%
MIT Undergraduate Biochemistry Association	\$475.00	\$675.00	\$675.00	70.37%	70.37%
Mock Trial	\$1,200.00	\$5,245.00	\$5,245.00	22.88%	22.88%
National Society of Black Engineers	\$830.00	\$10,055.00	\$3,055.00	8.25%	27.17%
Pershing Rifles C-12 (ABN)	\$660.00	\$660.00	\$660.00	100.00%	100.00%
Sloan Undergraduate Management Association	\$1,060.00	\$2,560.00	\$2,560.00	41.41%	41.41%
Students for the Exploration and Development of Space	\$1,035.00	\$1,675.00	\$1,575.00	61.79%	65.71%
ThinkBIG	\$0.00	\$1,270.00	\$0.00	0.00%	100.00%
Women's Week	\$0.00	\$2,280.00	\$0.00	0.00%	100.00%
<i>Cultural</i>					
African Students Association	\$1,025.00	\$3,925.00	\$1,775.00	26.11%	57.75%
Anime Club, MIT	\$1,300.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	66.67%	66.67%
Asian American Association	\$1,420.00	\$2,775.00	\$2,775.00	51.17%	51.17%
Association of Puerto Rican Students	\$1,140.00	\$6,900.58	\$6,900.58	16.52%	16.52%
Association of Taiwanese Students	\$1,560.00	\$3,340.00	\$3,340.00	46.71%	46.71%
Association of Women Students	\$420.00	\$420.00	\$420.00	100.00%	100.00%
Black Students' Union	\$810.00	\$2,302.00	\$2,302.00	35.19%	35.19%
Chamak	\$895.00	\$1,545.00	\$1,545.00	57.93%	57.93%
Chinese Students Club	\$1,550.00	\$4,230.00	\$4,230.00	36.64%	36.64%
Hawaii Club	\$270.00	\$490.00	\$490.00	55.10%	55.10%
Imobilare	\$800.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	53.33%	53.33%
Japanese Society of Undergraduates	\$585.00	\$885.00	\$885.00	66.10%	66.10%
Korean Students Association	\$505.00	\$2,505.00	\$1,105.00	20.16%	45.70%
La Union Chicana por Aztlan	\$1,517.00	\$2,017.00	\$1,967.00	75.21%	77.12%
Lion Dance Club	\$980.00	\$1,595.00	\$1,595.00	61.44%	61.44%
MIT Bhangra Club	\$250.00	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00	10.87%	10.87%
MIT Filipino Students Association	\$1,511.00	\$2,696.00	\$2,376.00	56.05%	63.59%
MIT Hapa	\$565.00	\$1,090.00	\$1,090.00	51.83%	51.83%
MIT Natya	\$775.00	\$1,680.00	\$1,580.00	46.13%	49.05%
Mocha Moves	\$600.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	44.44%	44.44%
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Oori	\$225.00	\$570.00	\$360.00	39.47%	62.50%
PaksMIT	\$765.00	\$1,240.00	\$1,240.00	61.69%	61.69%
South Asian American Students	\$1,250.00	\$4,575.00	\$4,575.00	27.32%	27.32%
Vietnamese Student Association	\$200.00	\$600.00	\$200.00	33.33%	100.00%
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Marching Band	\$700.00	\$1,545.00	\$1,545.00	45.31%	45.31%
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MIT Gospel Choir	\$1,300.00	\$2,672.00	\$2,672.00	48.65%	48.65%
MIT Logarithms	\$150.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00	7.14%	7.14%
MIT Muses	\$525.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,550.00	33.87%	33.87%
Resonance of MIT	\$915.00	\$3,679.00	\$3,679.00	24.87%	24.87%
Toons	\$900.00	\$1,340.00	\$1,340.00	67.16%	67.16%
<i>Political</i>					
GaMIT	\$810.00	\$1,980.00	\$1,980.00	40.91%	40.91%
MIT College Democrats	\$50.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	20.00%	20.00%
MIT College Republicans	\$275.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	25.00%	25.00%
Students for Israel	\$860.00	\$2,585.00	\$2,585.00	33.27%	33.27%
The Thistle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	100.00%	100.00%
Western Hemisphere Project	\$775.00	\$1,775.00	\$1,775.00	43.66%	43.66%
<i>Publication</i>					
Counterpoint	\$140.00	\$7,420.40	\$7,420.40	1.89%	1.89%
HTGAMIT	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	0.00%	100.00%
MIT Undergraduate Research Journal	\$0.00	\$2,825.00	\$2,825.00	0.00%	0.00%
RUNE, MIT's Journal of Arts and Letters	\$400.00	\$4,924.00	\$4,924.00	8.12%	8.12%
Voo Doo	\$2,050.00	\$2,180.00	\$2,180.00	94.04%	94.04%
<i>Religious</i>					
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Asian Christian Fellowship	\$1,120.00	\$1,890.00	\$1,890.00	59.26%	59.26%
Campus Crusade for Christ	\$1,500.00	\$3,640.00	\$3,640.00	41.21%	41.21%
Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship	\$1,050.00	\$1,925.00	\$1,825.00	54.55%	57.53%
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Latter-day Saint Student Association	\$500.00	\$860.00	\$860.00	58.14%	58.14%
MIT Chinese Bible Fellowship	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	100.00%	100.00%
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Protestant Student Community	\$325.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	81.25%	81.25%
Victory Campus Ministry	\$250.00	\$1,385.00	\$1,385.00	18.05%	18.05%
<i>Service</i>					
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Campus Crusade for Cthulhu	\$900.00	\$1,810.00	\$1,810.00	49.72%	49.72%
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mitBEEF	\$520.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00	39.39%	39.39%
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FINAL EXAM

1. WHICH ONE OF THESE IS NOT A KEVIN SMITH MOVIE:
A) "CLERKS" C) "DOGMA"
B) "CHASING AMY" D) "TITANIC"

2. DANTE AND RANDAL, THE LEAD CHARACTERS IN "CLERKS" ARE:
A) LAWYERS C) BEAUTICIANS
B) PHARMACISTS D) CLERKS

3. JAY & SILENT BOB HAD A CAMEO IN WHAT MOVIE:
A) "CITIZEN KANE" C) "BRAVEHEART"
B) "HOODWINKED" D) "SCREAM 3"

4. KEVIN SMITH SOLD WHAT TO HELP FINANCE "CLERKS":
A) HIS MOTHER C) HIS HEART
B) HIS DOG D) HIS COMIC BOOKS

5. WHAT ACTOR HAS NOT APPEARED IN A KEVIN SMITH MOVIE:
A) BEN AFFLECK C) JASON LEE
B) MATT DAMON D) "DAME" JUDI DENCH

6. "CLERKS 2" IS THE SEQUEL TO:
A) "AIR BUD" C) "TRANSAMERICA"
B) "E.T." D) "CLERKS"

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

The Art of Film Music at the Pops

John Williams Reprises Epic Favorites, New Scores

By Kevin Der

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

John Williams Spectacular
Boston Pops Orchestra
John Williams, conductor
Tamara Smirnova, violin
Martha Babcock, cello
May 11 – 13, 16, 2006
Symphony Hall, Boston

One of the first concert series of the Boston Pops season at Symphony Hall has traditionally been film music conducted by John Williams. He has maintained this annual event since stepping down as conductor of the Boston Pops in 1993, with the exception of last year, when he was too busy composing. This concert's program draws upon Williams' most well known works in addition to his recent scores. It also incorporates film music from other legendary composers, creating a fine collection of rousing and passionate repertoire.

The concert opened with "A Hymn to New England," which Williams wrote for the opening of the Omni Theater at the Museum of Science two decades ago. It is pure Americana, with brass fanfares and triumphant string melodies that slightly recall Copland. Three pieces from "Star Wars" followed: "Main Title and Rebel Blockade Runner" was brilliantly performed, with its driving rhythms and enormous sound conjuring nostalgic images from the opening titles of Episode IV. "Anakin's Theme" from Episode I and "Imperial March" from Episode V came next, a wise choice suggestive of how the innocent, lyrical tune for Anakin changes into Darth Vader's theme through motivic borrowings and harmonic imitation, representing the character's transformation from boy to Sith Lord.

CD REVIEW

'Broken Boy Soldiers' Holds Together

Jack White Band Finds New Room in Old Territory

By Andrew Lee

STAFF WRITER
Broken Boy Soldiers
The Raconteurs
Third Man/V2
Released on May 16

I've recently caught myself musing, "Jack White finally has a band." Not a new band — just a band, as if the White Stripes were the side project and White had just now decided to get serious. That sounds like an unnecessarily harsh judgment of White's usual partner in crime (because I'm sure Meg pounds her heart out on that drum kit), but I maintain that the two-member rock band format has handicapped one of the most thrilling guitarists in rock today. It's not a new or maybe even a fair gripe to make (the David-as-Goliath attitude has been the band's most thrilling aspect to many for years), but the issue continually resurfaces. Jack White shoulders an enormous sonic strain on every White Stripes album where more often than not the lead guitar is the rhythm guitar is the bass.

The idea of the Raconteurs is extremely appealing on paper: fill out the other instruments after the guitar, let the song-writing expand, and profit. For the most part on "Broken Boy Soldiers," it turns out like you'd expect. White's guitar is free to stretch its legs across registers without leaving the songs altogether, but he can never settle into a traditional lead-to-rhythm interaction with the second guitarist. On the occasions where both guitars are in action, they instead opt for a much more par-

lel arrangement. They have even adjusted their amplifiers to the same setting, which brings up the question as to why the Raconteurs even bothered to bring in more than one guitarist.

I rarely had to ask that question, to tell you the truth, because Jack White is craftier than I gave him credit for before this album. He understands what we've all been missing: the '70s arena rock squeal of twin guitars dancing in the upper registers right before dropping into a deep Led Zeppelin-like grind (see album highlight "Level"). He even takes a slight jab at Stripes critics with the same here's-your-damn-bass-line posturing in the lead single, "Steady As She Goes," as in his earlier "Seven Nation Army."

White unfortunately falls into several of the same traps that his ancestral classic rock heroes

Williams continued through another of his grand fantasy epics with three pieces from his recent "Harry Potter" scores. The first film's "Hedwig's Theme" employs the quick, bell-like celeste to suggest a light, magically charged flight. To the joy of all, Williams chose to perform the full concert version of this piece, an extended arrangement that passes the celeste themes to the strings and horns, eventually erupting into a grand, full-bodied orchestral climax that the musicians captured flawlessly. "Aunt Marge's Waltz," from the third film, is a comical, chaotic piece underscoring the scene in which Harry casts a spell on Marge causing her to swell like a balloon, soon lost to the sky. The dance combines with heavy, low brass allusions to Rossini's "The Thieving Magpie," employing arpeggios and descending chromatic scales over shots of a cuckoo clock, resulting in a humorous, inflated feel.

Finally, "Harry's Wondrous World" incorporates a number of musical ideas from the first film, including both heroic and introspective themes for Harry, a Quidditch fanfare, and others. Unusual French to tonic harmonic progressions lend an exotic, sorcerous mood. It is perhaps the most majestic and satisfying piece from the last decade of Williams' scores.

Selections from two Spielberg films about children also appeared. "Jim's New Life," from "Empire of the Sun," relays the youthful vigor of a boy imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp following the evacuation of Shanghai's International Settlement during the Second World War. The appearance of this rare concert piece was a delight. "Flight to Neverland" from the less serious "Hook" is one of Williams' most rousing flying themes, often performed by the Pops. Few of his compositions can send the listener soaring more than this sweeping, turning string melody.

In the first of several pieces by other composers, Smirnova performed the main theme from Ennio Morricone's "Cinema Paradiso," a stunningly poignant score. This arrangement also integrated the love theme in the film that was actually composed by Morricone's son Andrea. The beauty of this sweeping melody is simply beyond words.

Reprising a tribute from last August at Tanglewood, Williams also showcased well-known scores from three film music giants who passed away in 2004. David Raksin drew inspiration for the tragic violin theme of the title character in "Laura" upon learning that his spouse was leaving him. Agonized ninth chords demanding resolution and Smirnova's

mastery recreated the beautiful woman Laura who captured hearts even after her death simply through her image. The rich melodies of Jerry Goldsmith's "Star Trek" theme and Elmer Bernstein's Western "The Magnificent Seven" also filled Symphony Hall gloriously.

The single miscalculation of the evening was an arrangement called "Monsters, Beauties, and Heroes," with short passages from "Jaws" and Steiner's "King Kong"; "Casablanca" and "An Affair to Remember"; and "Superman" and Korngold's "Robin Hood." Marvelous concert selections on their own, they formed a piece overfilled with competing musical ideas. Accompanied by a film montage of poorly chosen characters with an absurd spiraling camera, the piece was lacking. A similar montage of athletes for Williams' marvelous "The Olympic Spirit" again proved unnecessary and distracting. The masterpieces performed at these concerts capture the images within, relieving the listener from needing the film at all.

Williams reciprocated tremendous ovations from the audience with two familiar, crowd-pleasing encores — the Raiders march from "Indiana Jones" and the Flying theme from "E.T." Though wonderful to hear, they are old-hat encores that Williams uses virtually every concert.

Less-familiar favorites like themes from "Home Alone" or even "Parade of the Slave Children" from the second Indiana Jones film would be wonderful encores. Nevertheless, any concert conducted by Williams is an experience to cherish, and this program brought out the best in the Maestro and the Pops.

The Boston Pops season extends through July 4, 2006, culminating in a Fireworks Spectacular that evening, open to the public on the Boston Esplanade.

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CONCERT REVIEW

Extraordinary Pollini

An Afternoon of Classical Splendor Made The Sun Shine More Brightly

By Nivair H. Gabriel

ARTS EDITOR

Maurizio Pollini
Bank of America Celebrity Series
Symphony Hall
Sunday, April 30, 2006, 3 p.m.

Listening to a recording over and over can be a setback for me once I get a chance to hear the piece played live. I expect the programmed perfection of my .mp3 file, when what I really hear is a musical interpretation that lives and breathes. Chopin virtuoso Maurizio Pollini, however, led me right past this difficulty during his April 30 performance at Symphony Hall; his performance of pieces I loved both satisfied and surprised me. His five encores suggest that the rest of the audience agreed.

With a humble gait and bright glint in his eyes, Pollini stepped to the Steinway and wasted no time at all in beginning his all-Chopin first act. The opening two nocturnes — Op. 55 No. 1 in F Minor and Op. 55 No. 2 in E-flat Major — were languorous lullabies, and Pollini played them with a slow and delicate grace. They were so soft and soothing, in fact, that they failed to stimulate.

At the start of Chopin's Ballade in G Minor (Op. 23), however, everyone straightened in their seats. In Pollini's recordings of Chopin's Ballades, he lacks the fluidity of contemporary Murray Perahia; he's technically sound, but wanting in soulfulness. On April 30, however, Pollini's First Ballade woke up. His emotion was clear — he rose a little in his seat — and at the end, when the Ballade scaled almost fast enough to be a glissando, the music sparked.

He went on to play two nocturnes hummingbird-fast (Op. 48, No. 1 in C Minor; Op. 48, No. 2 in F-sharp Minor), keeping the tempo up after the ballade was over. Chopin's Polonaise in F-sharp Minor was another good choice to round out the first act; Pollini's light

but firm touch gave it a lovely rhythm.

Back from intermission, Pollini picked up even more speed for an all-Liszt second act. He chose the smooth and haunting Nuages Gris, and played it to perfection, resting only moments before heading into Unstern — in fact a very stern and rigid piece as Pollini played it. Liszt did not publish Unstern in his lifetime, and its unusual nature did not win it many favors when it was first written; at this performance, too, it seemed out of place. For this reviewer, however, the more dark and sobering the piano music, the better.

The scene got even darker when Pollini moved into La Lugubre Gondola I. Written for a funeral gondola Liszt saw outside of Wagner's window, La lugubre gondola was Liszt's lament at Wagner's then-rapidly deteriorating health. When Wagner passed away soon afterwards, Liszt wrote an elegy, Richard Wagner—Venezia, and it was only fitting for Pollini to play them together, overshadowing the audience's mood on this sunny afternoon.

But Pollini didn't leave us in the dark. He finished with Liszt's Piano Sonata in B minor, one of the composer's most exciting contributions to piano literature. Liszt's pieces are known for their technical difficulty, as he was a virtuoso, and this sonata is no exception. Pollini teased out the animated and energetic chords, but was also able to portray the relaxing, beautiful parts of the piece. He left the audience pleased — too pleased.

What followed were several incredible encores, as each time Pollini left the stage we roared for his return. He didn't disappoint, and the hearty glint had not left his eyes; he continued to enter, sit, and play the audience something special. For this reviewer, the highlight was hearing Chopin's Revolutionary Etude (Op. 10 No. 12 in C minor) while watching Pollini on a concert grand, instead of through earbud headphones on the walk to class.

The Bank of America Celebrity Series is a consistent source of joy in any difficult se-



BANK OF AMERICA CELEBRITY SERIES

Chopin virtuoso Maurizio Pollini wowed the audience with his April 30 performance at Symphony Hall.

mester. Frequent presenter Maurizio Pollini nearly filled Symphony Hall, and that was no accident. This virtuoso played to his strengths,

and when the audience spilled back out onto sunny Mass. Ave., everybody was just a little more impressed with the world.

DANCE REVIEW

Alvin Ailey American Dance: The New and the Old

Novel Interpretation Impresses Audience

By Nadezhda Belova

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
Judith Jamison, artistic director
The Wang Theatre
Apr. 25 - 30, 2006

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater recently made a stop at the Wang Theatre during its U.S. tour. Sponsored by the Bank of America Celebrity Series, the tour is under the artistic direction of Judith Jamison.

The first dance of the evening, "Reminiscin'," was the Boston premiere of the piece by Judith Jamison. The choreography was original and fresh, containing both classic Alvin Ailey moves, such as the sensual and emotionally powerful sway of women's hips, and modern innovations, including an all-male duet, which was the first I've seen. All the costumes were light and sensual, but the men's clothes were even more revealing than the women's. The bar scenery gave the piece the realistic feeling of the modern young-adult nightlife. Although the piece focused on the human emotions of love and jealousy, it also evoked excitement through movements based on popular culture, such as grinding, that did not belong solely to the realm of dance.

The group dances were more powerful

than the duets, perhaps because the group possessed so much more energy when they danced together. While the dancers performed Jamison's choreography, they managed to express their individual personalities within their respective roles. Sometimes I wished for better synchronization in the group scenes, but perhaps the individual expression of the dancers was intended to be more important than synchronization.

The second piece, "Ife/My Heart," choreographed by Ronald Brown, was also a Boston premiere. It was filled with history, passion and beauty, but once again, I could not figure out whether the group scenes were supposed to be in sync or not, or whether individual expression was a part of the choreography or an irrepressible expression of the dancers' selves.

The dancing successfully took the audience through social, cultural and historical themes from traditional Nigeria to contemporary America. I was especially taken with a few female dancers whose technique was so moving that I was elevated into a state of pure enjoyment. Through their performance I was freed from the role of the critic to become someone who has happened upon honest and beautiful motion. These dancers did not have perfect technique, but they brought something

to the dance which technique alone never could: transcendence of the moment, or rather, full immersion in it.

The third piece was Alvin Ailey's Revelations. The first two pieces, though beautiful in their own right, did not have the simplicity and blending of music, vocals, and movement of "Revelations." This was the second time that I have seen this piece performed in the Wang Theatre; the first was a few years ago, and it was as powerful, beautiful, and mood lifting this second time as it was then. However, this year, the costumes and the décor had been revised, which gave the piece a slightly different feel. I was not able to determine how and why the decision to revise the costumes and décor was made. Perhaps it was because the audience always seeks novelty, and the 1960's costumes would feel outdated. Perhaps it was to bring the style of the costumes more in line with that of the other two pieces.

Regardless, I cannot do the piece justice by verbal description, but I strongly recommend that all admirers of dance see Alvin Ailey's "Revelations." I will tell you that the dance has props, such as umbrellas and fans; it has a scene with sea waves, created through movement of light and dark blue cloth; and it has spectacular group scenes, solos and duets. At the end of this piece the audience gave the

troupe a standing ovation of sufficient magnitude and duration that the dancers encored the last part of "Revelations." Some audience members walked out of the theatre dancing.

Apart from the dancing, there was another reason I enjoyed watching the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre. The troupe's dancers, especially the women, are of variable height and body type. Too often, what a dancer should look like is determined by ballet standards, which favors long legs and a definite slenderness of frame. It was beautiful to see, on stage, movements and bodies that were truer to every day experience than those seen in ballet.

The whole performance was impressive, which is not an easy feat. Just as it is difficult for the remake of a classic movie to live up to the original, so, too, is it difficult for the choreographers who create new pieces for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, as they will inevitably be compared to Alvin Ailey. It was interesting to see how the choreographers attempted to incorporate the best of the Alvin Ailey style into their own personal choreographic aspirations and identities. This evolution is a necessity for the troupe as audiences expect new pieces, and times change. I certainly enjoyed this new interpretation of the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater.

BOOK REVIEW

A Good Book ... For Your Younger Sister

'Troll Mill' A Cute Story But Not Much More

By Noelle Steber

Troll Mill
By Katherine Languish
Published by Eos

When I heard that The Tech had been sent a fantasy book to be reviewed, I volunteered for the duty right away. "Duty" was not the word in my mind when I volunteered — I absolutely love reading fantasy, and the chance to do so for more than just my own fun sounded great.

"Troll Mill" is a story loosely based on old Scandinavian folklore. In the novel, we find (of course) trolls, two orphans looking for their place in the world, and seal-women — crea-

tures who are women on land and seals in the water, and can be held captive by men if their seal-skins are stolen when they are on land. There is also peril, romance, overcoming the past, and many other elements expected in a standard fantasy story.

Much to my surprise, it was more duty than pleasure to get through the first few chapters. The author feels it's necessary to describe everything with as many trite metaphors as possible — I even started counting the number of metaphors per page to amuse myself, and there were usually several. I also believe that much of the description is superfluous; I had all I needed to visualize the story with only a third of the adjectives.

It does not help that this book is a sequel. I had not read the first one (entitled "Troll Fell" for those interested) prior to reading this work. Instead of feeling, however, that the details allowed me to catch up with the story, I kept wondering why there was so much description if we were supposed to be familiar with this world already. I kept going, though, because the story is based around Scandinavian myths that I knew a little bit about before I picked up the book, and by expounding on them the author made me curious.

After the exposition, the author settles into telling a story with more action than description, and the going becomes far easier for the reader. The story had enough to keep me inter-

ested through the end. Although I was able to accurately guess the general form of the final outcome, I was pleasantly surprised by a few twists in the storyline — knowing the ending halfway through a book makes reading the rest of it no fun.

If you are a fan of light fantasy and have a really long and boring stretch of time to while away, I would hand you this book. However, it is definitely not a must-read. If like me, you are attracted by the hints of old myths in the book, hand this one to your younger sibling and look for a better retelling. The book did pique my interest enough to make me want to find a better retelling of these myths, though, so I guess it did something right.

FILM REVIEW ★★★

'Mission: Impossible' to Pass Up*Explosions Galore in Mega Blockbuster Hit*

By Yong-yi Zhu

STAFF WRITER

Mission: Impossible III

Directed by J.J. Abrams

Written by Alex Kurtzman and Roberto Orci

Based on the TV Series Created by Bruce Geller

Starring Tom Cruise, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Laurence Fishburne

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

If I had a penny for every explosion, plot twist, or punch thrown in "Mission: Impossible III," I would be a very rich man by now. Though the third installment in the legacy of Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) may not be the most clever in the Mission: Impossible series, it is perhaps the most exciting film you will ever watch. The series has fully pulled away from the slick, James Bond type espionage, and instead has become a pure adrenaline rush, courtesy of new director J.J. Abrams.

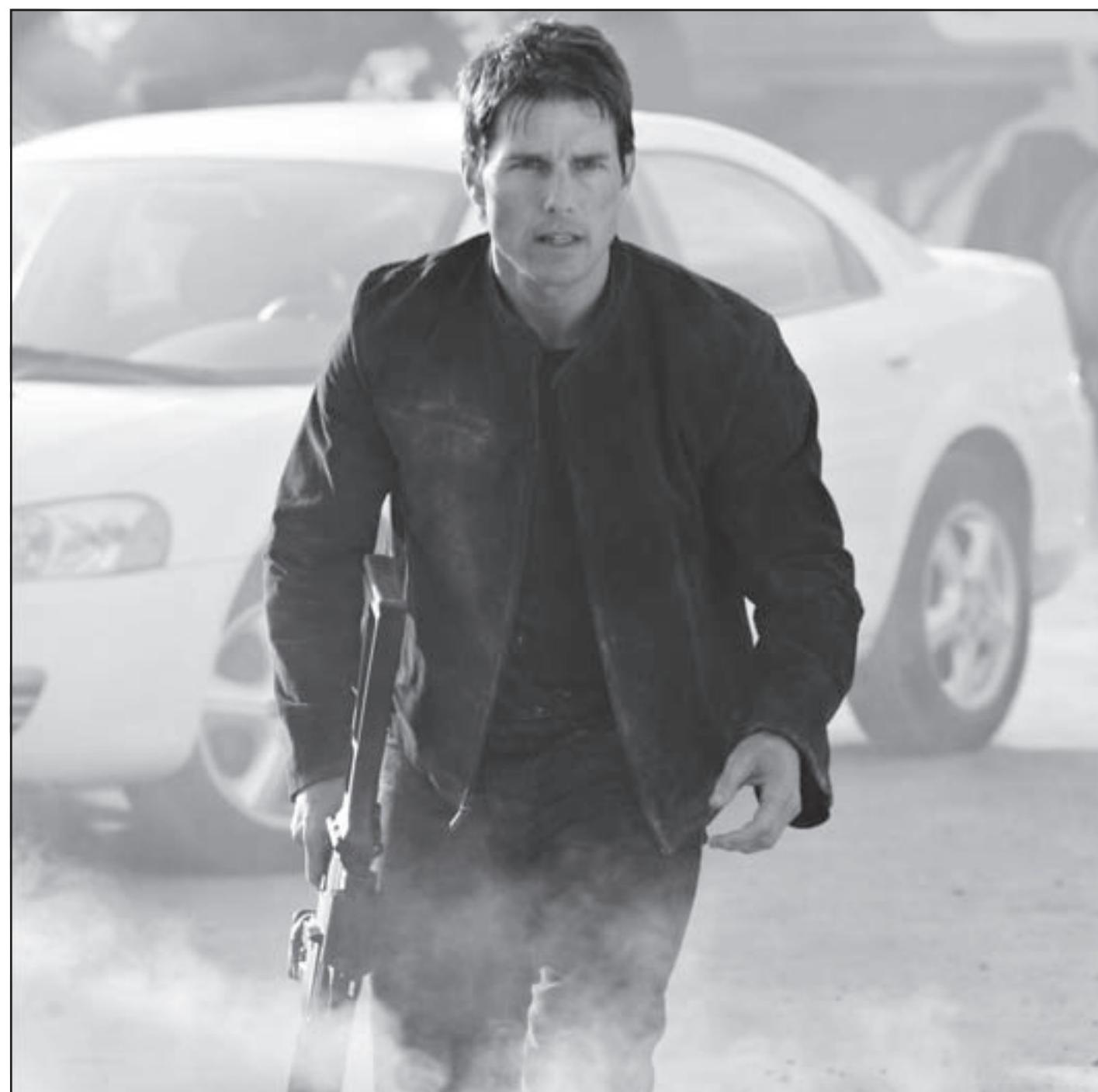
The opening of the film immediately dives into the action. Ethan Hunt is bound and bloodied. His wife, Julia (Michelle Monaghan), is tied up, helpless, and dying for her husband's help. Owen Davian (Philip Seymour Hoffman) has his gun pointed at the gagged female prisoner, forcing Ethan to tell him the location of the rabbit's foot. Ethan, on the other hand, has no clue what the rabbit's foot is and cannot tell Davian the one piece of information that could save his wife. Davian isn't messing around; he is only giving Hunt until the count of ten to help him. As Davian slowly counts, Ethan begs him not to do anything stupid, that he would help Davian if he simply let them free. But the begging is to no avail as the count slowly approaches ten, and a loud explosion is heard. Fortunately, it is only the credits.

From that opening sequence alone, it's easy to gauge the intensity of the entire film. Practically every scene is a heart stopper and the action never ceases.

The movie focuses on Ethan Hunt and his supposed retirement from field work. He is no longer able to lead such a dangerous life because of his engagement to Julia. Despite this, Ethan is still raring to join his mission team of Luther Strickell (Ving Rhames), Declan (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) and Zhen (Maggie Q). At his own engagement, he is called in by his handler, John Musgrave (Billy Crudup), to help retrieve another agent, Lindsey Ferris (Keri Russell), who was caught while trailing Owen Davian. Ethan, having trained Lindsey himself, decides to take the mission and thus begins the adventure.

Not only must Ethan find the captured agent, but he must also find Owen Davian's lair and figure out what this rabbit's foot is and why Davian is so interested in it. Questions abound — will Julia survive? How is Ethan going to get out of this mess?

The film tries to settle these uncertainties



STEPHAN VAUGHAN—PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise, pictured) faces his most personal mission yet in "Mission: Impossible III."

while destroying everything in sight, from a Lamborghini to a bridge. In the process, the film does a great job of entertaining. In fact, the few slow moments in the film are a welcome respite to the action. Believe it or not, you manage to identify with the characters, even though the only dialogue is sandwiched between gunshots. From just a few scarce words and looks, all of the actors are able to convey their many emotions.

Tom Cruise is particularly brilliant as Hunt,

perhaps because he has played the role twice already. He manages to convey the cool of a secret agent while exemplifying the tenderness of a family man.

The only problem with the film is the plot, which is a bit confusing even when all the twists are revealed. It does stay true to the other Mission: Impossible films by having agents double cross agents who are also trying to double cross other agents. Yet, the basic underlying story of good guy (Ethan Hunt)

versus bad guy (Owen Davian) is so ingrained in us that we are able to forget all the loopholes in the story as soon as we start seeing things blow up. It's a work of genius how the story line, seemingly intelligent and amazingly engaging, really is only enriched because of the loudness in the theater generated by bazookas and M16s.

It may not be as intellectual as a "Priory of Sion" mystery thriller, but it's definitely a film no moviegoer should miss.

ON THE SCREEN

— BY THE TECH ARTS STAFF —

★★★★: Inspired brilliance
★★★: Solid filmmaking
★★: Mild entertainment
★: Embarrassing dreck

American Dreamz
This is one of the few comedies in recent years that doesn't give away its funniest moments in the previews. What makes this film so enjoyable is the amazing cast, which includes Dennis Quaid, Hugh Grant, Willem Dafoe, and Mandy Moore. It would be incomplete, though, without the plethora of minor characters and impressive unknowns, like Sam Golzari and Tony Yalda. "American Dreamz" is delightfully satirical; the writers didn't hold back. Pretty much everyone and everything is a target: Bush and his administration, Britney Spears, Ryan Seacrest, the entertainment industry, the army, immigrants, terrorists, and gay stereotypes. (Alice Macdonald)

Ice Age: The Meltdown
This sequel begins where "Ice Age," the first film, left off; the animals have found a warmer paradise and discovered that the ice age is coming to an end. More appealing to a younger audience, "Meltdown" has a straightforward plot — and unlike recent animated features that dabble in pop culture — doesn't require viewers to be hip to get a good laugh. Despite the second-class graphics and predictable story, the movie is filled with creative humor, and it ac-

complishes one goal with ease: entertainment. (Hendrata Dharmawan)

Inside Man
Think of "Inside Man" as a Da Vinci Code-esque film, with a huge mystery hidden behind small clues revealed every so often. The film draws us in right from the get-go, and it doesn't release us until the final secret is unveiled. Clive Owen excels as a calm and collected bank robber; he gives the impression that his character is conducting a well-rehearsed orchestra instead of pulling off a heist. Jodie Foster's character, on the other hand, is superfluous, and Denzel Washington is also disappointing. The plot and the idea behind the movie, though, are addictive — this may be not just the perfect robbery, but the perfect thriller as well. (Yong-yi Zhu)

**Keeping Up with the Steins**

"Mazel tov" would not be an appropriate way to toast this bar mitzvah film; "oy vey" would be much more appropriate. This is a comedy with only a few funny jokes and many unnatural scenes. Jeremy Piven and Jami Gertz may be the only two positives, but even Gertz appear unrealistic at times. This movie may be

good for only one thing: reminding studios that they are capable of creating a completely awful film. (Yong-yi Zhu)

Lucky Number Slevin
A boss, a rabbi, a man in a purple-flowered towel, a cop, a perky neighbor, an assassin, and a missing friend: sounds like a recipe for total disaster. Somehow, though, this group of misfits comes together in one of the most brilliant films of the year. Director Paul McGuigan pieces together the stories of all these characters to make a disorienting dark comedy about a man who just happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time — all the time. In a strong male cast, Lucy Liu steals the show, and the superb acting is crucial; it makes this film come out just right. (Yong-yi Zhu)

The Notorious Bettie Page
Gretchen Mol plays Bettie Page, one of the most famous pinup models of the 1950s, who transformed from an innocent Tennessee girl into the queen of bondage. In addition to presenting her blossoming career, the movie shows the trials and tribulations Bettie endured as a woman with so much sex appeal. The acting was relatively weak, and some of the scenes came out of nowhere and do not add to the

movie, but the makeup and cinematography do a convincing and authentic job of identifying the decade. (Yong-yi Zhu)

Thank You for Smoking
This film is absolutely brilliant in making everything wrong seem right, everything disturbing seem funny, and everything pointless seem meaningful. Not until the end of the film did I realize that there was no plot — just one laugh-out-loud scene after another in the life of evil tobacco spokesman Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart). The list of talented performances is endless; from the amazingly creative opening credits to the last words, every part is selected with such care that the resulting creation is a contemporary work of art. (Yong-yi Zhu)

Water
"Water" is the latest installment in Deepa Mehta's critically acclaimed elements series, and it is no ordinary film. It explores the politics and morality of religion, and tells the story of three widows and how the Indian Independence movement affects their lives irrevocably — making them question the set of beliefs on which their existence rests. The movie was breathtaking; though films themselves can't change the world, Mehta hopes to begin the dialogue that will lead to that change. (Parama Pal)

Compiled by Nivair H. Gabriel

SPORTS

Bonds and Steroids Will Not Create Lasting Impact

By Ryan Lanphere

We're roughly six weeks into the 2006 baseball season and there is only one thing to talk about: Barry Bonds.

Column

Even non-diehard baseball

fans can't help but notice the media frenzy surrounding his steroid-marred attempt to pass the career home run records of Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron.

Is this attention merited? If you look at the history of baseball and what it represents, the answer is no. Bonds breaking the record is just an extension of what came before it.

Bonds is suspected of cheating by using performance-enhancing drugs, most notably The Clear and The Cream, undetectable designer steroids provided by a convicted steroid trafficker, Victor Conte of BALCO.

This controversy has called into question the careers and achieve-

ments of many world-class athletes such as world record sprinters, Olympic gold medalists, Pro Bowl linebackers, and many great sluggers of the early 90's and 00's.

All around us the impact of this scandal is evident. It has spawned best selling memoirs, award-winning investigative reporting, an ongoing grand jury hearing, and congressional hearings. It even found its way into President Bush's 2004 State of the Union address. In light of all this, should we care?

To answer this, we need a little baseball history. The sport has traveled a bumpy road through its storied past, remaining popular despite its many indiscretions.

Baseball endured the Black Sox Scandal of 1919 where a group of players colluded with bookkeepers to throw a World Series. Like the rest of America, baseball overcame the segregation that prevented great players from playing in the Major League. Like many other businesses

in America, it has seen its fair share of labor strikes, yet fans keep coming back.

Baseball will survive the current problem. Years from now, steroids will be viewed like the Black Sox, as just another scandal overcome.

Cheating is part of baseball culture. Players have always sought an edge over their opponents. In no other sport is stealing (a base) encouraged, and the hidden ball trick considered clever. Pitchers have scuffed and spit since the beginning of time in an effort add extra movement on their pitches.

It could be argued that performance-enhancing drugs are just taking this culture of cheating to the next level. The drugs were originally created to treat diseases or alleviate suffering. For example, the insulin taken by diabetics is a strong anabolic, and HGH or Human Growth Hormone is used to bolster the withered bodies of AIDS patients.

Like any drug or artificially ingested substance used to excess, anabolics can have very dangerous side effects. But competitive sports are inherently dangerous and often lead to health problems for athletes regardless of the drugs they might take. Football linemen are notorious for dying young since their hearts cannot support their great mass. After retiring, many players gain weight and suffer from diabetes, arthritis, and liver failure.

Another sports side effect unrelated to steroids results from the throwing motion of a pitcher, which

is completely unnatural for the human body. Pitchers rarely complete a career without enduring multiple shoulder surgeries, and many retired pitchers' shoulders are so worn down that they can barely lift their arms.

All these side effects are minimized with today's ability to manipulate nutrition, orthopedics, and weight training. There is no telling what past legends could have accomplished with the help of modern science. I often wonder how many home runs the Babe would have hit on a high carb and protein diet as opposed to hotdogs and beer.

Are the dangers of steroids that much different than the other dangers athletes face? In his book "Juiced," Jose Canseco claimed that the use of HGH is just another step forward in human evolution. Weight lifting was considered radical and discouraged in sports up until the late 60's and early 70's and it has now become commonplace. How will we view the use of steroids that create super-human athletes 50 years from now? Only time will tell.

Nothing accomplished by today's athletes can take away from the great men of the past. Baseball has pioneered many social changes. It integrated long before the rest of America. It was one of the first sports to televise and play night games, and it has always gone out of its way to accommodate its fans. Many baseball academies have been opened in inner cities and Latin

America.

Individual baseball players do not make the game great; the game is great in spite of its most infamous players.

Balancing Rose, Bonds, and others are the many great heroes of the game who aren't simply defined by records. Ted Williams left the sport for three years to fight in World War II and then later served in the Korean War. Jackie Robinson courageously broke the color barrier, Roberto Clemente died tragically in a plane crash while delivering aid supplies to earthquake victims in Nicaragua, and Lou Gehrig proclaimed himself the "luckiest man on the face of the Earth."

These are men who should be revered for their accomplishments off the field as much as on the field. There are also many modern day players to admire, like Albert Pujols, well-known for his work with autistic children.

Not every athlete has to be admired and emulated. After all, these men are entertainers playing a game. None of us direct our moral compasses by those who appear in the pages of "Us Weekly"; similarly, it is not necessary to hold all athletes in high esteem.

Like many baseball fans, I fondly remember the magical summer of '98 when Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa were chasing Roger Maris' seemingly unattainable mark of 61 home runs in a single season. Has the possibility of doping tainted my memory or altered my appreciation of their duel? Not a bit. It has only put the events of that summer into a new perspective.

For many fans, first ballpark memories of venerated spots like Fenway's Green Monster, or Wrigley's ivy fence are stronger than this controversy.

Another reason we shouldn't worry about steroids is that strict testing and hard punishments are now in place. Baseball was years behind the NFL and the Olympics when it came to testing, but it has now caught up.

Let the skeptics keep their asterisks. Call me a cynic, but records are made to be broken, as Ruth's and Aaron's eventually will be. Besides, let's not forget: chicks dig the long ball.

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